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## **Sen. Van Woerkom encouraged by governor's commitment to GOP vision of job creation and economic growth**

**Lansing** – Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom (R-Norton Shores) said he was encouraged to hear Gov. Jennifer Granholm's commitment to work with Republicans on creating jobs and spurring Michigan's economy during her State of the State Address Tuesday night.

"Jobs, jobs, jobs – we have been working to create a climate in Michigan very similar to the goal the governor announced tonight," Van Woerkom said. "I have already introduced a resolution that the Senate passed commemorating Congress to develop economic incentives and other programs to aid in the recovery and stabilization of the manufacturing industry in the United States."

Senate Republicans renewed their pledge to fight for every Michigan job and said they stand ready to work with the governor to accomplish what is right for the people of Michigan.

While the nation's economic recovery is well underway, families in Michigan are still too often facing the prospect of an unemployment check instead of a regular paycheck. In 2003, Michigan's jobless rate hit a 10-year high.

The GOP vision for Michigan includes providing a job opportunity for anyone who wants to work and support their family. It includes a great education for every student, affordable health care for families and senior citizens, and an opportunity for every Michigan resident to choose their own path.

"We must create Michigan's future, not just plan for it," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema. "It's time to create jobs, it's time to help our economy grow – it's time to take action."

(More)

Sen. Van Woerkom agreed, citing the example from this past fall when the Republican-led Legislature took action on its JOBS package – Job Opportunities for Business Success. Each point of the JOBS package complements the others to jumpstart Michigan’s weak job market and get Michigan’s residents back to work.

The Senate has sent seven of nine initiatives from the JOBS package on their way to the governor. Work is already underway on the remaining initiatives as well as JOBS: Phase II.

“Late last year we introduced the JOBS Plan and have already passed several key portions,” Van Woerkom said. “We are working hard to help ensure job retention and growth.”

Sen. Van Woerkom said some of the governor’s proposals outlined in her speech have merit, but he needs to see more details, including how she plans to pay for the proposals.

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Editor’s note: Audio remarks will be available for broadcast from the Senate Majority Communications Hotline. To access the hotline, dial (517) 373-4000, then follow the menu to Van Woerkom’s comments. Audio remarks also will be available on the web at: [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/vanwoerkom/index.htm](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/vanwoerkom/index.htm).